

APPENDIX I

NORTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NORTH DAKOTA RESOURCE AREA (B1)

Area Description: This area encompasses 59,126 acres of BLM administered public land. About 56 percent of this land is located in Bowman County, 26 percent in Dunn County, with the balance found in mostly scattered parcels ranging from 2 to about 2,000 acres in size in 22 other counties. The land is used primarily for livestock grazing, oil and gas production, wildlife habitat, and recreation. (See Map 10.)

Wildland Fire History: There have been no wildland fires reported on BLM public lands in North Dakota for more than 20 years. However, if fire response is needed, it would be carried out by permittees, lessees, contractors, or local rural fire departments.

Interface: There is little if any interface between BLM public lands and structures in North Dakota. The primary interface of any type would be between the public lands and oil and gas well and facilities locations. Even at those locations, however, the companies have taken into account the possibility of fire and prepared the sites to prevent losses from prairie fires. Sites are cleared of vegetation and covered with gravel or scoria. Measures are taken to keep invasive weeds and grasses off the locations, thus eliminating fuel supplies. There also would be a small amount of interface between private cropland and BLM rangeland. A fire starting on BLM surface could burn onto cropland and cause a loss of that commodity in a few isolated locations.

Area Concerns and Constraints: Concerns are minimal because of the low occurrence of wildfires on the small acreage of BLM public lands. The main concern of a wildfire on BLM land would be its possible spread to adjacent private agricultural and range/pastureland. Wildfire could endanger members of the public on BLM's

2,000-acre Schnell Recreation Area. Also of concern would be the long-term loss of wildlife habitat, especially in woody draws.

Planning Guidance: Planning guidance is found in the North Dakota RMP, and the Final Activity Plan And EA for The Schnell Recreation Area. These will be updated to include the fire management objectives and guidance described below.

Resource Objectives: These are outlined in the North Dakota RMP Desk Document, July 1988, and the Final Activity Plan And EA For the Schnell Recreation Area, February 1996.

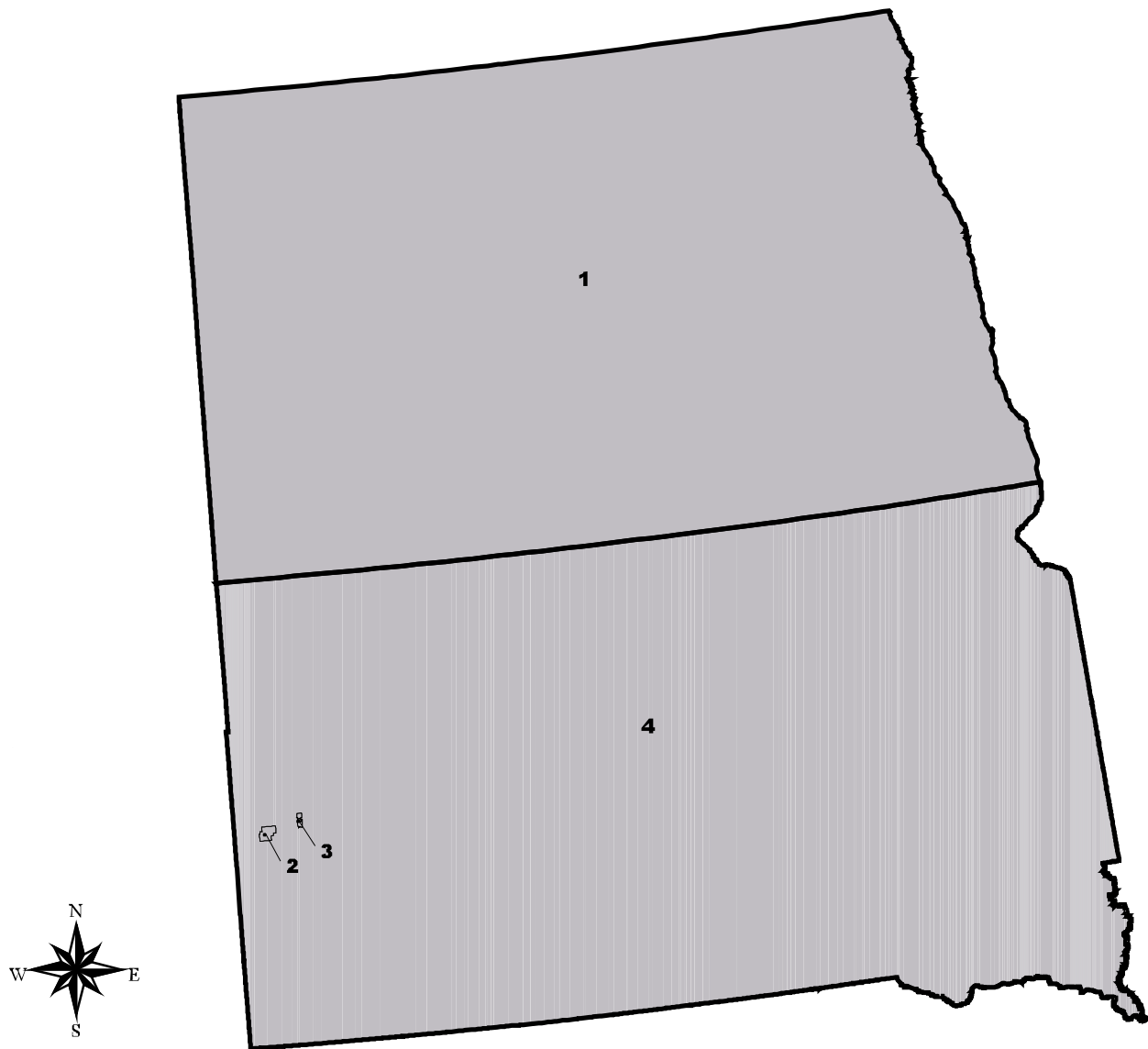
Fire Objective: Fire is not desired in North Dakota because of the large amount of private land and the relatively small isolated parcels of public land. Appropriate management response to most wildland fires in North Dakota would be aggressive fire suppression. The North Dakota RMP allows fire to play a natural role in the ecology of vegetation communities on public lands insofar as life, property, or private resources are not threatened. The Final Activity Plan And EA For The Schnell Recreation Area states: "Provide for prevention and control of wildfire on the property". Prescribed fire and other fuels management activities may be used to reduce fuels buildup and to avoid or mitigate the effects of potential wildland fire in rare cases.

Wildland Fire Suppression and Rehabilitation: Appropriate state guidelines found in Appendix A also apply to the North Dakota Field Office.

Prescribed Fires and Other Fuels Management: Appropriate state guidelines found in Appendix A also apply to the North Dakota Field Office.

MAP 10

NORTH DAKOTA & SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICES



Fire Management Category



- 1 North Dakota
- 2 Exemption Area
- 3 Fort Meade Recreation Area
- 4 Remainder of South Dakota

Scale



Location Map

